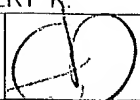


<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/027,480	WAGSTAFF, ROBERT K.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Shay L Balsis	1744 

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/20/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14 and 17-27.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 3/22/04, 12/21/01 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                              |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As stated in the previous office action dated 2/17/04, Examiner indicated allowable subject matter. Applicant has rewritten the indicated allowable subject matter into independent form and therefore is free from the prior art.

Independent claim 1 now states that the bristles, which vary in height and also have a curvature, and the tongue scraper are both emanating from the bristle base top.

Independent claim 3 now states that the bristles, which vary in height and also have a curvature, and the tongue scraper, are both emanating from the bristle base top adjacent the bristles.

Independent claim 4 now states that the bristles form a first colony at the bristle base distal end, and a second colony at the bristle base proximal end. The tongue scraper is emanating from a location between the first and second colonies.

Independent claim 6 now states that the bristles, which vary in height and have a curvature, and bristle base, are formed from a first material by a first injection molding process and the remainder of the tongue cleaner is formed from a second material by a second injection molding process.

Independent claim 7 now states that the bristles, which vary in height and have a curvature, and bristle base, are formed as a single unitary component via a first injection molding process. The tongue scraper is formed by a second injection molding process and the handle and neck are made by a third injection molding process.

Art Unit: 1744

Independent claim 12 now states that the handle and neck are made by a first injection molding process, the bristles and bristle base are formed as a single unitary component via a second injection molding process and the tongue scraper is formed by a third injection molding process.

The prior art fails to teach the combination of bristles of varying height that curve emanating from the same bristle surface as the tongue scraper. Additionally, the prior art fails to teach two injection molding processes; one for the bristles that vary in height and have a curvature, and two for the tongue cleaner. Since the allowable subject matter was incorporated in to the previous independent claims as well as in new independent claims, the applicant is free from the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shay L Balsis whose telephone number is 571-272-1268. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00 M-Th, alternating F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert J. Warden can be reached on 571-272-1281. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 1744

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Slb  
6/15/04



ROBERT J. WARDEN, SR.  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700